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### INFORMATIONAL SUBMITTAL

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DATE: August 13, 2015

TO: Catherine Payne, Chairperson

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Public Input Regarding Discussion Draft of Charter Contract Renewal Criteria

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#### I. DESCRIPTION

Update on public input on discussion draft of the Charter Contract Renewal Criteria, including proposed overall annual ratings for Organizational and Financial performance.

#### II. BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2013, the Commission executed the inaugural one-year State Public Charter School Contract (“Charter Contract”) with each charter school, effective for the 2013-14 school year. On July 1, 2014, the Commission executed the second Charter Contract, which had a term of three years, beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2017.

At its July 9, 2015, general business meeting, the Commission approved the release for soliciting public input of the draft Charter Contract renewal criteria for the end of the second Charter Contract, as well as proposed methodologies for assigning an overall annual rating for Financial and Organizational performance. The Commission also approved the following Guiding Principles to govern the development of the final Charter Contract renewal criteria:

1. Rather than receiving a two-year extension of their current contracts, as previously planned, exemplary schools will automatically be eligible for a new five-year contract.

2. Every school will be offered the possibility of renewal at the end of this contract term unless, in the case of a school whose performance falls in the lowest bracket, the school refuses to accept an additional probationary year in which the school must either achieve probationary benchmarks or close at the end of the probationary year.
3. A school's performance under all three performance frameworks (academic, organizational, and financial) shall be factored into renewal decisions.
4. Where the Commission's Academic Performance Framework ("APF") departs from the Strive HI Performance System ("Strive HI"), as with the APF's use of a weighted Academic Performance Index for multi-division schools and School-Specific Measures ("SSM"), the APF methodologies shall be used for renewal decisions.
5. For this round of renewals, Hawaiian immersion schools shall be considered separately from other charter schools.

### III. UPDATE

Commission staff has held the following meetings so far to discuss the proposed contract renewal criteria and proposed overall annual organizational and financial performance rankings:

- July 18, 2015 at 9:15 AM—Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network meeting (for HPCSN members only);
- July 24, 2015 at 9:30 AM – Commission Webinar (recorded WebEx) (PowerPoint Slides posted on website);
- July 27, 2015 at 6:00 PM – Commission Webinar (recorded WebEx); and
- August 6, 2015 at 10:00 AM - Na Lei Na'auao meeting.

In addition, as Commission staff teams begin meeting with charter school governing boards statewide, contract renewal is one of the items being discussed.

Information on the proposed Renewal Criteria and Feedback is posted on a special website page available from the Commission's homepage. This page includes the related staff submittals, the draft application document, recorded webinars, the corresponding PowerPoint slides, and a link to a SurveyMonkey that provides stakeholders with an opportunity to comment, or provide suggestions. Additionally, stakeholders may send in written comments and suggestions to the Commission's email address at [info@spcsc.hawaii.gov](mailto:info@spcsc.hawaii.gov) or contact Commission staff.

Commission staff is currently scheduled to meet with Ho'olako Like's Po'okumu Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Monday August 24, 2015, and is continuing to reach out and schedule more presentations and discussions with other stakeholders as well. We will be scheduling some follow-up meetings and also have been discussing the proposals by telephone with schools leaders and other interested stakeholders.

Based on feedback, comments, and suggestions received so far, staff already is working on revisions to the initial proposal and has begun incorporating some suggestions into its presentations as well. For example, just some of the suggestions that staff is looking into include:

- Making schools that fall into Bracket 3 for academic performance (average three-year percentile ranking of between 20 and 49) eligible for a three-year or two-year contract, instead of a two-year or one-year contract;
- Ensuring that the Financial Performance and Organizational Performance Frameworks factor into possible contract terms for schools that fall into Bracket 1 for academic performance (average three-year percentile ranking of 90 or higher), Hawaiian immersion schools, and Mālama Honua;
- Modifying the Additional Indicators and their rubrics that are used to help determine what contract term schools that fall into Bracket 2 for academic performance (average three-year percentile ranking of between 50 and 89);
- Allowing for data-related appeals during the probationary year for those schools that opt for probationary contracts and dispute whether the probationary terms were met;
- Allowing for schools in Bracket 4 that opt for a probationary contract to be removed from probationary status should their 2016-17 academic performance show very significant improvement, to be defined;
- Finding a way to place additional emphasis on student growth, especially for schools that serve particularly high proportions of high-needs students; and
- Finding a way to factor in a school's fulfillment of its unique mission.